

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council
held in the Mayor's Parlour, College House on Tuesday 5th June 2018 at 7.15pm**

Present: The Town Mayor, Councillor R Whittle OBE in the Chair,
Councillors Mrs C Baines MBE, Mrs S Barlow, D Cooper,
C Dyson, R Fox, A Hinton, Mrs H Howell,
Mrs K Hurst-Knight, E Marshall, Mrs J Onions,
Mrs C Walden and Mrs C Whittle

In Attendance: Acting Town Clerk, Barry Ince MCGI
4 members of public

Minutes Secretary and transcribed by Mrs A Kendrick

0085/1819 **FIRE SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The meeting commenced with a fire safety announcement by the Mayor.

0086/1819 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RESOLVED: to accept the following apology for absence.

Councillor Dr J Buckley	Personal Commitment
Councillor G Davies	Personal Commitment
Councillor Mrs S Stevens	Personal Commitment

0087/1819 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Personal Interest:

Councillor H Howell	Agenda item 13ii	Use of the Annexe Twinning Association
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0088/1819 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Question from a Resident

1. In view of the paid advertisement on May 17th by this Council in the local press, which amounts to an apology over the publication on 21/3/17 of a Scrutiny Report (which had reached unfounded and libellous conclusions without evidence or even interviewing those castigated in it), does the Council intend to ask the remaining Councillor still serving on this Council who co-wrote the report, to do the decent thing and apologise in person and resign?

The Mayor stated that Councillor Baines has been included in the negotiations that took place and that should suffice.

2. If the said Councillor, which I did not name, does not take the accepted step of resigning voluntarily, will the Council consider any other options available to it to ensure that justice is served against her for the six persons who were admittedly maligned in, and distressed by, the Scrutiny Report.

The Mayor advised that the litigant accepted the result and as far as Council is concerned, it is an end to the matter.

0089/1819 **MINUTES**

- i) The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Thursday 10th May 2018 and the minutes of the Adjourned Annual Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 were submitted as circulated.

Councillor Mrs C Whittle proposed an amendment to the resolution contained within minute number 0026/1819 of 15th May to state that “the Mayor shall receive £2,300 for 2018/19 and provide £300 of that to the Deputy Mayor to carry out her duties”.

Councillor D Cooper proposed an amendment to the resolution contained within minute number 0027/1819 of 15th May to state that “the Council continue with the above documents as they stand until such time as revised versions are adopted.”

RESOLVED: that subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Thursday 10th May 2018 and the minutes of the Adjourned Annual Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

0090/1819 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

0091/1819 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

Question from Councillor D Cooper

At the Town Council meeting on 17th April 2018 the Council considered a proposal which involved an advertisement be placed in the local press; it agreed the suggested wording but modified the original proposal in that the Council were only prepared to make a charitable donation rather than a contribution to the other party's costs. Subsequently, the Council made a payment to the Mayor's charities and an advertisement was placed in the Bridgnorth Journal on 17th May 2018. In the absence of any report to the Town Council meeting on 15th May 2018 that the matter has been concluded:

1. Does the Council have a formal written agreement from the potential litigant that the course of action taken settles the matter definitively and that there will be no legal action taken or public statements made?
2. Has the Council received external professional advice about the necessity of publishing the statement made and the appropriateness of the wording?

The Mayor responded as follows:

1. As Council are aware, discussions/negotiations were almost by email and a confirmation that an agreement was reached was also confirmed by email from both the barrister acting on behalf of the litigant and from the litigant himself. The barrister has confirmed that a confirmation in writing will be forthcoming imminently. There are no requirements within the agreement regarding public statements as people are entitled to freedom of speech.
2. There was no need to seek external professional advice as written confirmation of the wording had been agreed with the barrister.

Councillor D Cooper requested copies of the final confirmation from the other party.

0092/1819 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- i) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 be received and adopted.

- ii) The minutes of the Events and Christmas Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29th May 2018 were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Events and Christmas Committee meeting held on Tuesday 29th May 2018 be received and adopted.

0093/1819 **MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the committee minutes.

0094/1819 **NOTES OF OTHER MEETINGS**

Members considered the following notes and summary document.

- i) Notes of the Strategy Meeting held on 27th March 2018
- ii) Notes of the Strategy Meeting held on 10th April 2018
- iii) Notes of the Strategy Meeting held on 22nd May 2018

After a short discussion, it was agreed that these documents should be used as scoping documents for Mr A Tubb of NALC to help facilitate the Council's Strategy Plan for the next 3 - 5 years. It was further agreed that his expertise in this field should be used to come up with ideas that the Council had not yet thought of.

Various dates were suggested for Mr Tubb to commence the work and the most popular dates of Tuesday 26th June, Thursday 28th June, Monday 2nd July, Wednesday 4th July and Thursday 5th July would be put forward.

0095/1819 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

RESOLVED: that the Common Seal be affixed to the following documents:

Oak Grove 182M and 182N
Cremation Plots 265, 266 and 267

0096/1819 **REQUEST FOR USE OF COUNCIL PREMISES**

- i) Use of Castle Hall

Members were asked to consider a request from Together at Christmas for use of the Castle Hall

RESOLVED: that Together at Christmas be given free use of the Castle Hall for their event.

ii) Use of the Annexe

Members were asked to consider correspondence from the Bridgnorth Twinning Association regarding free use of the Annexe for their meetings.

RESOLVED: that the Twinning Association be given free use of the Annexe for their meetings.

iii) Use of the Low Town Community Hall

Members were asked to consider a request from the Bridgnorth and District Rights of Way Association to have free use of the small meeting room in the Low Town Community Hall for their meetings held bi-monthly.

It was agreed that the Annexe would be offered as an alternative.

RESOLVED: that the Bridgnorth District Rights of Way Association be given free use of the Annexe for their bi-monthly meetings.

Concern was raised that Council was receiving more and more requests for free use of their properties for meetings. It was suggested that Members be provided with a list of all the organisations who are receiving free use of Council premises as we could be losing bookings because it is already in use; whilst receiving no income. The Castle Hall Working Party were asked to look into making a criteria for organisations who may be entitled to free use for agreement by full Council.

0097/1819 **CO-OPTION TO EVENTS & CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: that Ms G Bailey and Mrs S Themans be co-opted to the Events & Christmas Committee.

0098/1819 **FUTURE FIT**

A report from the Task and Finish Group was circulated which contained the following recommendations:

- That council facilitate public presentations by the Clinical Commissioning Group, Defend our NHS, and any other interested parties. The first two have formally offered to present in public and to the Town Council.
 - Does the Town Council support this?
 - Does the Town Council wish to have a separate presentation?
We recommend this so we can ask detailed questions and have some debate.

- If we support this, the working group recommends that the Town Council should provide the Castle Hall or Low Town Community Hall as a venue. We recommend that this should be free of charge.
- It should be made clear that, at this stage, the Town Council is acting to facilitate the provision of information to its electors and is not expressing an opinion on either side of the debate.
- After more facts are available and due consideration the Town Council may decide to make a submission to the consultation and/or lobby the town's Shropshire Councillors, MP and others.

Members noted that there was already a Future Fit event planned for Bridgnorth on 25th July, from 3.30pm – 7.30pm in Bridgnorth Leisure Centre, hosted by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Concern was raised that the Town Council should be involved and that any responses to the consultation should be made as individuals.

It was agreed that information regarding the existing meeting and those hosted by other organisations, such as Defend our NHS, would be posted on the Town Council website to inform residents, further information would be sought regarding the format of the meeting on 25th July, and consideration would be given at the next Town Council meeting as to whether the Town Council holds a separate meeting for the public to attend.

It was stated that the offer to use Council premises for a meeting free of charge should be withdrawn.

0099/1819 **PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY TOWN COUNCIL**

Members were asked to consider the following planning application

18/02153/FUL	Erection of petrol station comprising 3 pump startergate forecourt, overhead canopy, separate HGV pump, ancillary convenience store including ATM, 2 x jet wash bays, underground tanks, landscape and parking for 25 cars and formation of new vehicular entrance – Services Development Plot, Chartwell Business Park, Stourbridge Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
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Concern was raised regarding the petrol tanks being placed below ground. Members were advised that this had already been commented upon by the Environment Agency.

After a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED:** that Members recommend approval of Planning Application 18/02153/FUL.

Signed: Date:

0100/1819 **OUTDOORS AND PROPERTIES MANAGER'S REPORT**

Members noted the report from the Outdoors and Properties Manager.

It was **RESOLVED**: that a letter of thanks be sent to TG Builders Merchant for their kind donation of materials for the repairs to the brick planters outside the Co-op on Lodge Lane.

A vote of thanks was given to B Ince and the Direct Labour Force for completing the trenching work so quickly for the cabling for the floodlighting and CCTV by St. Mary's Church.

0101/1819 **MISSING LITTER BINS**

Members considered correspondence from a resident regarding missing litter bins in the town.

RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to Shropshire Council requesting that any missing bins are replaced.

0102/1819 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

RESOLVED in terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded

0103/1819 **COUNCIL MATTERS**

Members were asked to consider the contents of Appendix G and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should take no further action at present and should wait and see if any further contact is made regarding this matter.

0104/1819 **CEMETERY EXTENSION**

- i) Members were asked to consider the notes of a meeting regarding the Cemetery Extension in Appendix H and **RESOLVED** that the contents were noted.
- ii) Members were asked to consider the contents of Appendix I and **RESOLVED** to agree to:
 - a. Move forward with the purchase of land for the Cemetery Extension as detailed in Appendix I.
 - b. To obtain planning permission (change of use) for the parcel of land to be purchased.

- c. Contact Shropshire Council regarding the possible installation of an entrance / egress to / from the proposed extension site.
- d. Instruct our solicitor to draw up the necessary legal documentation for the land purchase.
- e. Move forward with Stages 3, 4A and 4B of the TGMS report as per the recommendation made at minute number 0666/1617 of the Property and Grounds Committee meeting on January 2017 (confirmation has been received that dipwell testing carried out on this land is still valid and that the original fees quoted for these further phases of work outlined within the quotation will be honoured).

The meeting closed at 8.55pm